GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:234
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
DELAY AT PORTS
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of grains exported through Indian ports during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been delay at ports in export of grains;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be adopted at Indian ports for the efficient handling of foodgrains meant for exports; and

(d) the machinery proposed to monitor the exports of foodgrains in time from Indian ports?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.234 4.12.2002 ASKED BY SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA AND SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY REGARDING DELAY AT PORTS.

(a) to (d): The quantity of grains exported through various Major Ports during the last two years is as under:-

(In 000` Tonnes)

NAME OF PORT	2000-01	2001-02
Kandla	1176	2567
Visakhapatnam	200	773
Tuticorin	132	331
Mumbai	177	111
Cochin	12	11
Kolkata	-	0.5
TOTAL	1697	3793.5

Steps adopted for efficient handling of foodgrains include procurement of modernised handling facilities for handling grains export, providing priority berthing to grain vessels, making available night navigation facilities, construction of godowns/covered warehouses, etc. The performance of foodgrains vessels is monitored in the ports through proper planning to enhance the efficiency levels to promote exports in grains.

The efficiency of handling cargo including foodgrains have improved which is reflected in the following indicators:

Year	Pre-berthing detention to Ships on Port Account	Average Turn around Time
1999-2000	0.9 days	5.10 days
2000-2001	0.5 days	4.10 days
2001-2002	0.5 days	3.70 days

There has been improvement in handling of foodgrains at Kandla, where most of the foodgrains are handled, as is indicated from figures given below:

S.No.	Year	Average Pre-berthing Detention on Portc Account (in days)			
		Rice		Wheat	
		No. of Vessels	Average waiting time	No. of Vessels	Average waiting time
1.	2000-01	71	1.79	22	3.07
2.	2001-02	129	1.65	47	1.63
3.	2002-2003 (Upto Oct. 2002)	159	0.98	43	1.05

The steps taken/being taken which will further improve handling of foodgrains at Kandla are as follows:-

(i) Night navigation has been re-started since 7.11.2001.

(ii) No vessel carrying polluting cargo such as sulphur, coal, etc. is being berthed near the berths where foodgrains are handled.

(iii) Berthing policy has been linked with productivity providing priority berthing to vessels which can achieve higher output.

(iv) Warehousing facilities are being created through private participation.

(v) In order to meet the requirement due to sudden spurt in the rice vessels and in consultation with the trade, one berth from import group has been shifted to export group.

It is the continued endeavour of the Government to provide necessary facilities to facilitate handling of foodgrains at Major Ports.